MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MARCH 1983

Libya

The Libyans "challenge" the United States and are prepared to die defending their honor against it, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a Jamahiriyah anniversary speech in Banghazi broadcast live by Tripoli radio and reported by JANA. Deploring the "defeatist logic" which made Egypt, Sudan, and "even the Palestinian resistance" surrender to the United States, al-Qadhdhafi said Libyans are confronting the United States to defend the Arab nation and to promote Arab unity, which the Americans are trying to prevent. He reaffirmed Libya's call for Arab states to honor previous unity agreements with Libya, asserting that if Arab rulers do not want to honor these agreements Libya will be obliged to mobilize the "popular masses" to achieve unity by force. "Secessionists and regionalists" who are tyrannizing the Arab nation and hampering unity should be "physically liquidated," he averred.

Lebanon

Crackdown on Smuggling -- An Army Command communique broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio announced that illegal import of foreign goods will henceforth be "strictly forbidden" and that all illegal ports will be closed as of 7 March. Smugglers and receivers of smuggled goods will face prosecution by military courts, the communique declared. Christian Lebanese Front leaders expressed support for the new measures, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Soviet Ambassador's Return -- Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov returned to Beirut after a long absence, Beirut radio reported. After stating that the Soviet missiles recently supplied to Syria are defensive missiles aimed at deterring those who are "lying in wait for Syria and those who stand behind this threat -- and I mean the United States," Soldatov said a military confrontation on Lebanese territory would be "different" from an attack on Syria.

Israel

Begin on Syria, Settlements -- Prime Minister Menahem Begin said the modern Soviet arms "flowing" into Syria are an obstacle to peace since the weapons are intended "to toughen the Syrian positions prior to reaching an agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon," ITIM reported citing Begin's remarks to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. On the issue of settlements, Begin stressed that were it not for the Israeli presence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, these territories would have undergone a process of "Lebanonization" and turned into a "center for potential disasters."

Judaea Group -- Security forces in Judaea have uncovered a radical "armed clandestine" group whose aim is to use violence to induce Hebron's Arab inhabitants to abandon their homes and property, MA'ARIV reported. According to a police source, the group's members will soon be arrested, the paper added.

Relations With Egypt -- During 2 March talks in Ismailia on Israeli-Egyptian border conflicts, Israel agreed to give priority to discussions on the Tabah issue while Egypt agreed to later discuss other issues in bilateral relations, Jerusalem television reported. A related MENA report disclosed that the Egyptian delegation will emphasize Egypt's "inalienable right" to the area and the importance of solving the dispute in accordance with the terms of the peace treaty and the 25 April 1982 agreement.

Egyptian-Soviet Relations

Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, discussed Soviet-Egyptian relations with an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official during a 5 March stopover at Cairo airport, MENA reported.

PLO Affairs

"For every step Egypt takes away from Camp David, we will move 10 steps closer to Egypt," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared during a Khartoum news conference reported by SUNA. The PLO leader expressed hope that circumstances would allow him to visit Egypt at the "earliest opportunity." 'Arafat also voiced his regret over the "imprecise interpretation" of the PNC statement concerning Egypt.

In another development high-level Palestinian sources have affirmed that 'Arafat will arrive in Amman "within the next 2 days" for talks with Jordanian officials on future Palestinian-Jordanian relations, according to the Amman paper AKHBAR AL-USBU'.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SENIOR OFFICIALS' 2 MARCH DECISIONS REPORTED

BK021630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Senior officials of the nonaligned countries have decided that the question of Kampuchea's representation should be discussed by the foreign ministers who are beginning their 2-day conference in New Delhi tomorrow. They completed election the vice chairmen, endorsed the decision to admit Colombia, Bahamas, and Barbados as full members and agreed on a basis for the formation of the movement's Coordinating Bureau. The officials recommended that Vanuatu be accepted as a full member. This will raise the strength of the movement to 101. Vanuatu is a group of islands in the Pacific situated between Fiji and Australia.

The officials decided to recommend to the foreign ministers that India be elected chairman of the conference. It was also decided to have two more vice chairmen to give representation to freedom movements. The two movements elected today are the PLO and SWAPO [Southwest African People's Organization]. They elected vice chairmen, eight each from Asia and Africa, four from Latin America and two from Europe. The vice chairmen elected from Asia are Bangladesh, Iraq, Indonesia, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PLO, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Vietnam. The eight African countries are Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, SWAPO, Tanzania, Zaire, and Zimbabwe. The four vice chairman from Latin America would Bolivia, Grenada, Panama and Suriname. Cyprus and Malta would be the vice chairmen from Europe. Yugoslavia was elected chairman of the Political Committee and Nicaragua, the chairman of the Economic Committee.

Before the morning session began, the Indian delegation held consultations with a number of other delegations, particularly those from the ASEAN countries. The All India radio correspondent says that it was mainly as a result of these discussions that the decision to leave the Kampuchean issue to the foreign ministers was taken. The Indian delegation stressed that it is willing to discuss the matter at any time, but some others had shown reluctance to take up the matter at the meeting of the officials. Our correspondent reports that the general atmosphere now appears to be conducive to discuss the Kampuchean issue objectively and in the proper perspective. There is a general feeling that such individual questions should not be allowed to affect the total thrust of discussions on larger issues which are of vital concern to the member countries and movement as a whole.

Several suggestions were put forward for the formation of the Coordinating Bureau. There was general agreement with the basic tenets outlined in an Indian draft working paper and the basic approach suggested in it was generally endorsed. Foreign Secretary Rasgotra, who outlined some of these, said that the bureau should be filled in a manner that past experience of members contributes to their current work. Secondly, member countries should have the opportunity to serve on the bureau by rotation. It should be open-ended so that anyone interested in a particular issue can take part in the bureau's deliberations.

External Affairs Minister Narasinha Rao had separate meetings with the foreign ministers of Algeria and Egypt today. Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca met the secretary general of the conference, Natwar Singh, and discussed with him mainly the arrangements about President Castro's arrival. The Afghan deputy foreign minister, Serwar Yurish, met G. Parthasarthy and conveyed to him his government's views on paragraphs relating to certain aspects of Afghanistan in the draft declaration. Yurish wanted the draft to take more precise notice of the dicussions being held since June last which reflect the flexibility of the parties concerned.

LIBYA CALLS FOR EGYPT'S OUSTER FROM MOVEMENT

BK031018 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 3 (AFP) -- The dramatic appearance of a rival Chadian delegation upstaged debate on the vexed question of Cambodian representation as foreign ministers of the 97-member Non-aligned Movement began their talks here today.

The Chadian delegation representing the country's ousted leader Goukouni Oyeddei turned up suddenly today, but will not be allowed to enter India, Conference Secretary General K. Natwar Singh told newsmen.

Chad's seat at the Seventh Non-aligned Summit here that opens on Monday is held by the Habre regime, which took power last year after Libyan troops backing Mr. Goukouni withdrew from the country and the year before.

At the opening talks of senior officials on Tuesday, the Libyan delegate took strong exception to the presence of the Habre delegation. He said that the Chad seat should be kept vacant until a government "truly representative of the people" emerged there.

At today's session Libya also demanded the expulsion of Egypt from the movement, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao made a strong appeal for unity when he addressed the session today. He expressed hope that the summit would be able to resolve conflicts in a spirit of accommodation and take steps to promote economic cooperation.

"It is of cardinal importance to maintain and strengthen the unity and solidarity of the non-aligned countries," Mr. Rao said.

Other speakers also expressed hope for the success of the summit, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department, called on the gathering to further strengthen efforts to oppose the "imperialists and Zionists."

The foreign ministers meeting today and tomorrow will also pore over political and draft communiques prepared by host India and nail down technical details of the five-day summit beginning Monday.

The senior officials recommended the selection of Yugoslavia to head the conference's Political Committee, a move said to reflect India's desire to moderate the movement's tone. The choice of Nicaragua to head the Economic Committee was interpreted as a bid to develop a much more energetic non-aligned economic policy.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES AS OBSERVER

BK030315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has expressed the hope that the Nonaligned Movement would act unitedly. The secretary general arrived in New Delhi last night to hold observer status of the nonaligned summit. He is accompanied by a nine-member delegation.

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTERS' ARRIVALS

SFRY's Mojsov

LD020946 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0907 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 2 (TANJUG) -- Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lazar Mojsov Wednesday arrived in New Delhi where he will take part in the work of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit as a member of the Yugoslav delegation.

Mojsov will also participate in the minsterial meeting which opens in the Indian capital tomorrow in the framework of the final preparations for the summit conference of the heads of state or government of the nonaligned countries.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

BK021612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on his arrival in New Delhi this afternoon said Pakistan will extend full cooperation to all countries of the Nonaligned Movement, including the host country of India, to strengthen and stabilize the unity of the movement. The summit will provide an opportunity to the movement to play an effective role during this delicate situation facing the world fraternity.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that during his stay in New Delhi the agreement on the establishment of the Pakistan-India joint ministerial commission will be signed and he will thereby have an opportunity to exchange views with Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao on effective steps for the development of relations between the two countries. Pakistan attaches great importance to development of its relations with India, he added. Narasimha Rao, who had earlier welcomed the foreign minister, also expressed similar views.

Syria's Khaddam

JN030712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi -- The nonaligned foreign ministers meeting begins here today to prepare for the Seventh Nonaligned Summit on 7 March.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here yesterday to take part in the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting. He said in an arrival statement that the Seventh Nonaligned Summit has acquired great importance in these circumstances which are perilous to world peace and the world at large. He added that various attempts are being made to weaken the Nonaligned Movement.

Sources of the nonaligned summit have affirmed that the heads of the Iraqi, Jordanian, and Egyptian regimes will hold side meetings during their stay in New Delhi. The sources added that the heads of the Jordanian and Iraqi regimes have asked the Indian Government to place them in the same hotel as the head of the Egyptian regime.

Reports said Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz met yesterday with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed bilateral relations. Tariq 'Aziz is due to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, scheduled to arrive here on Friday.

FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE OPENS 3 MARCH

BK030754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The 2-day conference of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries opened in New Delhi this morning in preparation for the forthcoming summit. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, was elected chairman of the conference in succession to the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Malmierca.

In a brief speech after his election, Mr Narasimha Rao said the New Delhi conference is taking place at a difficult period in international relations. The need to avoid the danger of war and consolidate international peace and security has assumed the utmost urgency, he added.

Speaking later on behalf of the Asian group, the foreign minister of Pakistan, Mr Yaqub Khan, described the host country India as a pioneer of anti-imperialist and anticolonialist traditions on this continent. He voiced the Asian countries' trust in India's capability as a new chairman to guide the Nonaligned Movement. Inaugural session of the conference was also addressed by the representatives of Malta, PLO, and Sao Tome and Principe. All of them expressed their admiration for the arrangements made for the summit at short notice.

KARMAL PRESENTS AWARDS TO ARMY OFFICERS

LD271838 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon received a number of officers of the heroic DRA Army who, in honor of their valuable services in protecting the gains of the great April Revolution, have been awarded the emblem of the Red Banner of (Darafsh-e Sorkh). Babrak Karmal pinned the ked Banner emblems on their chests.

Babrak Karmal, in the presence of Chief of General Staff Major General Baba Jan and Brigadier Yasin Sadeqi, head of the Army Political Administration, congratulated our heroic officers on this great honor and said: Comrades, patriotic, revolutionary and popular officers in the DRA I express profound congratulations and best wishes to you on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee; its Politburo and Secretariat, the Presidium and the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA; and on my own behalf.

Babrak Karmal, whose speech was accompanied by continuous applause, added: Comrades, the role of the heroic DRA Army, which constitutes the majority of the DRA Armed Forces, is very great in the revolutionary history of our homeland and will be inscribed in proud and golden letters. You, with the force of your Afghan sword, today defend every inch of the sacred soil, honor and the dignity of the homeland. The enemies of the April Revolution who, because of the treacherous provocations of imperialism and reaction, are hatching conspiracies and intrigues, do not have the power to resist our heroic Army. Our heroic Army today is defending the lofty aspirations and the great achievements of the April Revolution and the interests of the toiling people of our country and our sacred homeland. Honor to you commanders and officers who are in the front ranks of our heroic and courageous Army.

Addressing the Army officers, Babrak Karmal said: Courageous and brave officers of the DRA Army, through you I express my warm revolutionary greetings to all commanders, officers and troops of the Army and wish you still further successes in completely eliminating the enemies of the revolution.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after the distribution of the emblems, the chief of General Staff on behalf of the commanders and officers of the DRA Army assured Babrak Karmal that all Army personnel will not spare any effort in defending the lofty aspirations of the April Revolution and are constantly ready to fight under the guidance of their revolutionary party and government and the wise guidance of Babrak Karmal.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' CRUSHED IN FARAH PROVINCE

LD012124 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Military units in Farah Province have crushed a group of counterrevolutionaries in [name indistinct] village. The group's leaders -- (Sufi Rajab) and (Haji Feda Mohammad) -- and a number of saboteurs (Nasroddin), (Aqa Mohammad), (Mullah Mohammad Azam) and (Mullah Mussa) -- have been captured.

A spokesman of the military command in Farah Province said that eight weapons, a number of antitank mines, hand grenades, rockets and rocket launchers and several motorcycles have been seized from these counterrevolutionaries.

BAKHTAR COMMENTATOR ON NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

LD030957 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Kabul March 2 BAKHTAR -- The political commentator of BAKHTAR writes:

The seventh conference of the heads of state and government of non-aligned countries are struggling in the hostile propaganda war of imperialism and its accomplices on the threshold of its convocation soon in New Delhi. The commentator says that after the Second World War, with the collapse of colonialism newly independent nations emerged in the world and the new phenomenon of the Non-Aligned Movement emerged as a natural impact against the neo-colonialist strategy of imperialism.

The commentator writes that China too joined hands with imperialism against the Non-Aligned Movement and with the plan of creation of the so-called Third World as a confrontation with the socialist and capitalist countries wanted to further flareup the differences inside the movement. But despite all these mischievous activities and hostile acts of imperialism and Chinese hegemonism throughout the course of development of this movement, from Cairo to Lusaka, Algiers and Colombo, the policy of defence of peace and detente, disarmament and abolition of foreign basis, peaceful coexistence and decisive support of national liberation movements were defended.

The commentator recalls that the aims and basic principles of non-alignment are stated in the documents of the first conference of heads of non-aligned countries held in Belgrade. It is pointed out in the declaration of this conference that no state and government can remain without responsibility [word indistinct] the world peace.

The commentator writes that the national and democratic, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist revolution in Afghanistan and the anti-imperialist revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua inflicted heavy blows on imperialism.

Now that the 7th conference of the heads of state and government of non-aligned nations is on the verge of being held in New Delhi in the first days of March, it faces with duties which are [word indistinct] difficult in the conditions of the complicated political atmosphere and other complexities created by imperialism headed by the U.S. imperialism and its reactionary accomplices and the Chinese hegemonism which endangers the world peace.

The author of the commentary stresses that with the persistent efforts of progressive and peace loving countries, this movement under the chairmanship of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the recognised political figure for a three years term, will not detract it from its original course and will discuss all these vital issues.

AKALI DAL URGES PRESIDENT ZAIL SINGH TO RESIGN

BK021341 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 2 (AFP) -- The Punjabi Sikh Akali Dal Party today urged Indian President Zail Singh to step down as head of state and join the community in its campaign against the "non-fulfillment of the genuine and principled demands of the people of the state" by the government.

Four Akali Dal members of the national Parliament and 36 legislators of the Punjabi Assembly who have submitted their resignations to the respective presiding officers on January 27, to press their party's demands that include greater autonomy for Punjab, marched to the presidential palace this morning.

A memorandum to the president, a member of the community but not of Akali Dal, on behalf of the party leadership, called on Mr Singh to resign as head of state "as a gesture of your solidarity with the people of Punjab in this grave hour of struggle."

Listing their outstanding grievances, Akali leaders said that even their religious demands were not being accepted in their proper perspectives.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced on Sunday that three major Akali religious demands had been accepted by the government while Akali leaders have branded the announcement as a "fraud."

Mrs. Gandhi remained silent on the Akali political demands.

Akali Dal President Sant Harchamd Singh Longowal said the prime minister's statement was aimed at "creating confusion" among the Sikh masses and added that the party's would continue to press the federal government on all its demands.

Punjab has been affected by the Akali Dal protest for nearly a year.

Among the militant party's demands are an increasing share of the Ravi-Bias river waters, that the common capital of both Punjab and neighbouring Haryama, Chandira, be given to Punjab exclusively, and "Vatican status" for Amritsar which is to be declared a holy city.

Mrs. Gandhi had announced that the sale of meat, cigarettes and liquor was to stop in the vicinity of two Amritsar Sikh temples.

The state-owned Jullundur All India radio station will soon start live broadcasts of religious hymns from the Golden Temple.

The government will allow Sikhs to carry kirpans of up to nine-inches long on domestic airlines. The kirpan is a dagger-like weapon carried by Sikhs as a religious symbol.

The kirpan had earlier been banned following several hijacking incidents by militant Sikhs last year.

Zail Singh Rejects Demand

BK030336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has rejected the Akali legislators demand that he should step down from office.

Giani Zail Singh told the four Akali members of parliament and party MLA's [member of Legislative Assembly] of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha [Legislative Assembly] that he represented the entire nation and not any particular community or state. The president gave a patient hearing and discussed various issues listed in a memorandum submitted to him by the Akali legislators at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. Giani Zail Singh told the delegation that Sikh tennets have always preached communal amity.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has refuted the allegations of the Akali Dal that the government is pursuing a discriminatory policy against Punjab and the Sikhs in economic, religious and cultural fields. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Darbara Singh said it is only under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi that Punjab has prospered immensely and continues to do so. The chief minister also described as absolutely baseless and motivated propaganda that he was forced to sign the Ravi-Bias agreement in 1981.

Mr Darbara Singh met the prime minister in New Delhi. He is understood to have told her that the people of Punjab have reacted favorably to the center's acceptance of the Akali religious demands.

PARTS OF ASSAM DECLARED 'DISTURBED AREAS'

BK021600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Assam Government today declared the districts of Nowgong, Darrang, Lakhimpur, and several police station areas of Goalpara, Kamrup, Sibsagar, and Dibrugarh Districts as disturbed areas under the Assam Disturbed Areas Act. The Army is emplowered to take steps for effective maintenance of law and order. An official announcement in Gauhati this evening said the Army has been moved to these areas in adequate numbers and have been authorized to take necessary action for the maintenance of public order there. The Army has also been instructed to take the strongest possible measures to prevent communal or intergroup clashes. The announcement said that the Army will work in coordination with district authorities in the areas.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew has been clamped on Hatikhali area under (Teok) police station in Sibsagar District following incidents of group clashes early today. The Army has been moved to the area to control the situation and maintain law and order. The state chief secretary, Ramesh Chandra, said this evening in Gauhati that 24 persons died and several others were injured in the clashes. In another incident in Nowgong District, a violent mob attacked the police station and one inspector of police was killed. The chief secretary said the situation is now under control.

YAQUB KHAN URGES SUMMIT ATTENTION TO AFGHANISTAN

BK021356 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has expressed the hope that the Afghanistan problem will receive serious attention at the coming Nonaligned Conference and the participants will express their views in a clear and forthright manner with regard to the situation in Afghanistan. In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan's representative in Lahore today, we hoped that their approach toward this problem would be on the lines similar to the declaration that emerged from the foreign ministers meeting of the nonaligned countries in Havana last year. He said Pakistan also expected that the Nonaligned Summit Conference would appreciate its efforts being made for a peaceful solution of this problem. He hoped that there would be consensus of participating countries on this issue.

LAW MINISTER ON EFFORT TO FIND AFGHAN SOLUTION

BK030239 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Majlis-i-Shoora [Advisory Council] was told today that Pakistan is engaged in a serious effort for the peaceful political settlement of the Afghan problem which would ensure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country and enable the refugees to return home in conditions of safety and honor.

The federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, said while speaking on an adjournment motion that the situation in Afghanistan is not of Pakistan's making and the events that have taken place there have affected Pakistan by the massive influx of refugees. The adjournment motion was sought to be moved by (Syed Khalilur Rahman Chishti) to discuss the statement made by a leader of the North-west Frontier Province relating to the Afghan problem and its effects on Pakistan.

The law minister expressed the hope that the diplomatic process initiated by the United Nations which has the support of the Soviet Union would lead to a just and comprehensive settlement of the problem.

He said notwithstanding our stand on principles regarding the Afghan problem, Pakistan and the Soviet Union maintained friendly relations. In fact, he said the two countries have no bilateral dispute. The mover did not press the motion after the statement.

NEPAL

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS FROM OVERSEAS VISITS

BK201531 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa returned to Katmandu this afternoon from Dhaka, Bangladesh, after completing a 17-day tour that took him to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh on official visits. Prime Minister Thapa also visited the United States of America for treatment of his eyes and had a brief stopover in London en route to the United States. He paid an official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of the President of the Council of Ministers Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad from 18 February to the 20th. The prime minister visited India and Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and the government of Pakistan respectively.

The prime minister's talks with the leaders of those countries, which focused primarily on the forthcoming Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi, also dealt with matters of bilateral, regional and international interest.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Water Resources Padma Bahadur Khatri, who accompanied the prime minister to India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, also returned to the capital today with the prime minister from Dhaka.

SRI LANKA

PRESIDENT TO HEAD NONALIGNED SUMMIT DELEGATION

BK011111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] President Jayewardene will lead a 30-member delegation to the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference due to commence in New Delhi on Monday, 7 March. The 5-day conference will conclude on the 11th of next [as heard] month.

A meeting of officials of participant countries is scheduled to open tomorrow. This will be followed by a meeting of the foreign ministers.

Sri Lanka's official delegation led by W.T. Jayasinghe, secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left yesterday. Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed will leave for Delhi tomorrow. Mr Jayewardene, Mrs Jayewardene and Secretary to the President W.M.P.B. Manikdiwela are scheduled to leave for New Delhi on Thursday this week.

The delegation will include Bernard Tilakaratna, Sri Lanka's high commissioner in India, Benedict Fonseka, Sri Lanka's permanent representative at the United Nations, and Ambassador Dr (Lal Jayewardene).

President Jayewardene announced at the annual conference of the United National Party last week that he planned to suggest to the nonaligned heads of state the formulation of a program to deal with the economic problems facing the Third World. He stressed that the conference should give priority to the world economic issues.

The fifth summit meeting was held in Colombo in 1976, while Cuba hosted the sixth summit 3 years later.

Jayewardene on Topics

BK261139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Sri Lánka has come out strongly in favor of placing the world economic crisis as a priority subject at the nonaligned summit to be held in New Delhi next month. Speaking at the annual conference of the United National Party in Colombo today, President Jayewardene disclosed that he hoped to urge nonaligned government leaders to consider the world economic crisis as a basic problem.

The president asked how they could give prominence in their discussions to the Kampuchean problem when the people of the world were faced with unemployment and starvation. The Nonaligned Movement comprised of developing countries and [word indistinct] together with developed countries were today facing a grave economic crisis. Around 30 million people have lost their jobs in developed countries.

The president quoting the Commonwealth secretary general said that African countries, which gained independence recently, were facing a situation of bankruptcy. We in Sri Lanka had to act in such a hostile climate. Therefore, Mr Jayewardene said that he planned to call for a program of action taking the world economic crisis as the basic problem even though they had to discuss problems pertaining to Kampuchea and Israel.

The president referred to the progress achieved by Sri Lanka over the past 5 years despite the fact that large number of countries were facing economic problems. One point two million people have been found employment while development projects have been carried forward. The assistance received from friendly nations and international agencies helped in a large measure toward this achievement. He said that no government could implement its program without such assistance.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

BK251320 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Parliament last night approved the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution by an overwhelming 122 votes. Members of Parliament Lakshman Jayakody, Anura Bandaranaike, Ananda Dissanayake and (Saratu Petuegama) abstained while members of the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Maitripala faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party were not present in the chambers when voting took place.

Winding up the debate on the bill, Prime Minister Premadasa said elections to the second parliament will be held under the proportional representation system. He said this system is being introduced to give equal value to every ballot cast. He observed that the people used their votes in a most appropriate manner for the first time during the recent presidential elections. The prime minister also said that the president always acted with the approval of the Cabinet and the party.

VELAYATI DEPARTS FOR NONALIGNED CONFERENCE

GF021740 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, Mar 2 IRNA -- "We hope that the current Non-aligned Movement meet will help solve the great human problem," said Foreign Minister 'Ali Velayati this morning.

Velayati, who was speaking prior to his departure for New Delhi, said the Islamic Republic of Iran will, with the help of God, actively participate in the session.

Speaking on the Non-aligned Movement the foreign minister said Third World countries decided to form the movement after World War II, since the world was divided into two blocs of power, due to the political repercussions of the Yalta Conference (Feb 4-11, 1945).

He said the movement had now some 97 members, while many countries had applied for membership, and some had been refused admission.

He said in the New Delhi summit, out of the 140 countries participating some 70 leaders of countries will take part, 20 countries will have observers, while the rest were representatives of liberation movements and also guests.

He said the foreign ministers session will start Thursday while the leaders summit will commence Monday.

Speaking on the agenda of the summit, he said the problems of Cambodia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Cyprus, South Africa's aggressions against Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, world economic problems, and the Zionist regime's aggressions against Lebanon will be discussed in the sessions.

Accompanying Velayati to New Delhi are: his deputy in charge of economic affairs, Kazempur-Ardabili, Dr. Mir Mehdi, his deputy in legal Majlis affairs, Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, the Foreign Ministry director-general in charge of Asian and African Affairs Department.

REPORTAGE ON ALGERIAN ASSEMBLY HEAD'S VISIT

Meeting With Majlis Speaker

LD021212 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 2 IRNA -- "Algeria pays homage to the Islamic Revolution of Iran" said Rabah Bitat, the president of National Assembly of Algeria, on Tuesday.

In a meeting with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani the head of Algerian parliamentary mission said the Algerian revolution was also based on Islam and that his country lost more than 1.5 million of its people defeating the French colonialist army. He said after the victory they tried to rebuild their country and become self sufficient in industry and agriculture.

Bitat said that Algeria has a special strategic position, being among African countries of Muslim and Arab world also due to its adjacence to the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, his country's policy, Bitat added, is based on non-interference in others affairs and good neighboring, supporting liberation movements and participating actively in Organization of African Unity (OAU). Enemies of OAU intended to nullify the organisation and damage the Non-aligned Movement, Bitat added, calling Iran to cooperate with Algeria in thwarting such designs.

Referring to plots of imperialism all over Africa including Sahara, contact group countries, Namibia, South Africa, Egypt he said that the upcoming Non-aligned Movement would have to cope with difficult problems.

He said Algeria was ready to build a single strategy with Iran. He also hoped that Iran and Algeria's relations would be further strengthend in future.

In reply to his Algerian counterpart, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said presence of Algerian leaders in Iran was a great pleasure and hoped that in this crucial era these mutual meetings would grow into multilateral meetings with Muslim liberated nations.

He added that superpowers have mobilised all their means to obstacle advance of the Islamic Revolution because they are well aware that if Iran connects with great Muslim powers of the region, it would endanger the bases of imperialism in areas such as the Zionist regime in the Middle East, South Africa, Egypt and Morocco in Africa.

Rafsanjani hoped that the two countries' relations would be further expanded.

Second Round of Talks

LD022349 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The second round of talks between Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Algerian National People's Assembly Speaker Rabah Bitat and the delegation accompanying him was held this morning.

According to our correspondent's report, during the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the visit could influence the two countries' future relations and the problems of the region and the Middle East and extolled the Algerian revolution and the foreign policy principles of the Algerian Government, particularly that of noninterference in the affairs of others and support for liberation movements. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran also believes in these principles, which are among the articles of our Constitution.

The Majlis speaker added: We believe we are in complete coordination with you in Africa, particularly with regard to the Sahara, Morocco and South Africa, Namibia. However, with regard to the Persian Gulf and the problem of occupied Palestine, we could coordinate our positions. You know that if Iran's Islamic Revolution had been correctly appraised by the region's countries, it could have constituted an appreciable turning point in modern history.

The Majlis speaker added: After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran, which was once a U.S. island of stability, the supporter of the regime occupying Jerusalem and Egypt, the protector of imperialist interests, and an obstacle on the path of all Arab and Islamic nations and progressive regimes, joined the Arab front and thereby disrupted all imperialist calculations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We did not expect such reactionary countries as Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms to stand on our side, but we did expect the progressive regimes to ponder the issue more seriously, to stand on the side of right in the imposed war, and to condemn the aggressor.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then called on the responsible officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry to place the book of documents on the imposed war, recently published on the basis of the admissions of the documents and plans published by Saddam's Zionist regime, at the disposal of the speaker of the National People's Assembly of Algeria, so that the facts could be better revealed.

The Majlis speaker added: Today efforts are being made to destroy the Islamic Revolution's achievements in the region. One of the most important achievements was the increase in the price of oil following the reduction in Iran's exports after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which was in the interest of the oil-producing countries. But now plots are afoot in OPEC to deal an important economic blow to Iran's Islamic Revolution and the deprived countries. We know Algeria condemns this policy. However, a more serious policy should be adopted.

Of course, we will prevent at all costs the reduction of the price of oil and will not allow the people -- who are the real owners of the oil resources -- to lose more. We call on the southern Persian Gulf states not to submit to this plot. We hereby announce that the problem is serious for us and is part and parcel of our struggles. We will not ignore it. And we call on you and such countries as Libya, Venezuela, Indonesia, and Syria, who do not want to see a fall in the price of oil, to react more seriously to this problem. Should the oil-producing countries refuse to consider this issue and insist on serving their masters, we seriously expect you to be on our side on this issue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then dealt with the issue of Africa: We don't interfere in your internal problems in Africa and will express our opinions only through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With regard to the Palestine issue, the Majlis speaker said: This problem is not confined to the Palestinians. It concerns the entire Islamic world. The regime occupying Jerusalem is a dangerous cancer threatening all the forces in the region. We believe the United States and the Zionist regime will not be content with this degree of aggression. Should the Palestinians one day want to wage a war, it is our duty to resist the Zionist regime. You also have the same duty. Of course, with the dispatch of our forces to Lebanon, we have demonstrated that we participate in the war against those occupying Jerusalem to the best of our abilities. We know the Palestinians are living under difficult circumstances. Despite all these difficulties, they resisted for some 80 days in Beirut, but never did the Islamic world give its serious support. Therefore, the Palestinians lost heart and suffered and came to the situation they are in today. Tell the Palestinians not to pin their hopes in the war on world public opinion. This is because world public opinion is molded and may be changed by the imperialist mass media and mouthpieces. The cure for the ills of Palestine lies in the power they must display to the Zionist regime and the United States.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to cooperation between Iran and Algeria: All fields are favorable and the area of cooperation is open. We welcome any suggestions, and we believe there are a great many problems connected with the Persian Gulf region and the imposed war, in which we could coordinate positions.

Addressing the speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Please assure the Persian Gulf shaykhs that we can protect them with our might on condition that they do not involve themselves any more in the imposed war.

The speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly then thanked Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Referring to the problem of the Palestinians, he said: The Palestinians cannot compromise and are forced to wage battle because a vast part of the Palestinian people is still living inside the occupied territories. New Arab and Muslim generations can chose no other path except struggle and progressivism. Our new generation has risen to realize independence and freedom. The PLO also understands this very well. On the other hand, it is facing problems and no country is prepared to give the Palestinians the necessary help.

With regard to the oil problem and the plot being hatched within OPEC, the speaker of the Algerian National People's Assembly said: We are in complete agreement with you and defend your position. We will tell our brothers in the Persian Gulf to understand your position and not to bring pressure to bear on a country pursuing construction.

In conclusion he emphasized the coordinated stand adopted by Iran and Algeria in the conference of the heads of the Nonaligned Movement and referring to U.S. plots in the region, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's struggle against Eastern and Western imperialism and global arrogance will not change.

Session With Khamene'i

LD022252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The president of the Algerian People's National Assembly who arrived in our country at the head of a delegation yesterday at the invitation of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, met and conferred this morning with President Seyyev 'Ali Khamene'i.

During this meeting, the president referred to the daily increasing U.S. imperialist conspiracies: It is not possible to foil these conspiracies except through full unity among the progressive countries of the region. The president continued: Of course, so far we have powerfully stood against these conspiracies, including the American move and the invasion of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Iraqi Zionist regime, but unity among the progressive and friendly countries can have desirable effects.

Continuing his remarks, the president emphasized the need for full unity among the nonaligned countries in their stand against the arrogant circles and the superpowers: Today, the Nonaligned Movement needs to acquire courage. Members of the Nonaligned Movement should unite against global arrogance with courage. To retreat under the threats of the United States and its allies openly encourages them to continue their deeds. If the Islamic Republic had not decisively and bravely stood against the Iraqi barbaric attack on its territory, it would have encouraged the United States to implement its policies in the region. Khamene'i continued: If the Muslim and progressive countries of the region were to discuss the principles of the Nonaligned Movement in every nonaligned meeting and if they were to condemn the imperialist policies, a new move would be created in the region.

3 March Departure

LD031006 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 3 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 3 IRNA -- The President of National Assembly of Algeria Rabah Bitat left Tehran for his country Thursday morning. At the airpott he was seen off by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During his two-day stay here Bitat met and conferred with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis speaker for further expansion of the two countries relations.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,235

LD021802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,235 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued on the western fronts, with the forces of Islam enjoying superiority. The fire of artillery units and combatants based on the frontlines on the Saddamist's positions, trenches, and fortifications destroyed six lorries carrying personnel, one mortar, and a number of enemy trenches.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the Marivan area. Our combatants shelled the enemy's assembly and equipment points on the other side of the border in the vicinities of Tutman and (Banawilah) and stopped Iraqi troop movements.

The victorious combatants of Islam yesterday defended their positions on the southern fronts and in the Wal Fajr operational zone and returned the enemy's fire. Exchanges of fire were more intense in the area situated between Faqih and (Chazzabeh).

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, our forces destroyed seven slit trenches and foxholes and three observation posts of the mercenaries on the other side of the Arvand Rud, killing or sounding a number of enemy servicemen.

At 0817 today, one of our helicopters set fire to and destroyed the enemy's observation tower situated on the (Al-Umayyah) oil platform. At 1300 yesterday, Iraqi aircraft bombed the city of Dehloran with cluster bombs, martyring one inhabitant and destroying several buildings.

At about noon today, enemy aircraft bombed the city of Dehloran twice, martyring five and injuring 14 of our compatriots and destroying a number of houses. The Saddamist criminals yesterday continued to bring the resistive city of Abadan under heavy and long-range weapons fire, damaging some houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MUSAVI ADDRESSES GARRISON GRADUATION CEREMONY

LD021318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, the graduation ceremony of more than 2,000 cadets and conscripts of 01 Training Center was held this morning in the presence of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

During this ceremony, Musavi first reviewed the units stationed in that garrison. The commander of the 01 Training Center then welcomed the prime minister and submitted a report concerning the activities of the center in both the military and ideological fields and the methods of training graduates.

In a speech stressing the readiness of the forces of Islam to confront Eastern and Western imperialism and colonialism, the garrison commander referred to the reasons behind the aggression of the Zionist regime of Iraq. He said: With the wise leadership of the imam of the nation, we will neutralize all the anti-God and antihuman movements and all the evil plots of the superpowers. America should know that we are true defenders of Islam and the Koran.

In a speech after the graduation ceremony, the prime minister referred to the reasons behind the aggression of the Zionist Iraqi regime against our Islamic country. While praising the steadfastness and persistence of the fighting forces and the people of our country against this aggression, he said: We don't want war. However, one should fight to establish a peace under which nations can freely choose their life and destiny and to cut off the hands of the superpowers. We should be steadfast and should engage in self-sacrifice. He also said: For the next generation to be able to live independently and in a free climate, we should fight. We should regard this war as a movement toward a peace in favor of all the oppressed people of the world.

Referring to the hostile propaganda of world powers concerning the economic bankruptcy of the Islamic Republic, Musavi said: They hoped that in a short time our country would collapse from an economic point of view and that we would stretch our hands toward them. However, today we are more powerful than ever before and our economy is healthier than ever before. He added: It is Iraq which, after spending $36 billion of foreign exchange deposits and after making use of more-than $30 billion of assistance from reactionary countries, is still worried about its situation and is not able to fulfill its commitments. He emphasized: Our order has been able to withstand all these diverse plots, to become stronger day by day, to increase its foreign exchange reserves, and to lay the foundation of a healthy economy.

The prime minister added: Our nation has proved it is possible to confront the superpowers with unity and solidarity. This frightens the superpowers. He said: Because of the steadfastness of the people, the hands of the superpowers have been cut off from this country. However, the superpowers are afraid that their hands will also be cut off from oil wells and from the resources of the oppressed nations throughout the world.

Referring to the military assistance given to the Zionist Iraqi regime, the prime minister said: Against which country and which power are these weapons to be used? Do these reactionary, humiliated, and weak countries want to fight against the Soviet Union or another superpower? Are these weapons given to these countries for any reason other than to confront the glorious Islamic Revolution? The reactionaries know this revolution is capable of putting an end to the life of such governments and of blocking the path of exploitation by the superpowers.

Addressing the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the end of his speech, the prime minister said: You are the pwerful arms and the glory of this order. You are standing against foreign powers and are following a path of deprived people, which will lead to liberation of the oppressed people of the world. He added: By defending our country we will demonstrate the methods of liberation from the yoke of the superpowers to all the countries under their domination.

At the end of this ceremony, the units stationed in the garrison marched passed the glorious Koran, the blessed portrait of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

KHOSRAVI REINSTATED AS HOUSING FOUNDATION HEAD

GF021728 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 2 IRNA -- Rahmatollah Khosravi, the head of the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, was reinstated as the head of the foundation, and also as a member of the Central Council of the afore-mentioned organisation, announced the public relations section of the Housing Foundation today. The statement added that the said decision was taken in a recent meeting of the Central Council of the foundation.

DEATH OF TUDEH PARTY THEORETICIAN REPORTED

GF021834 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] According to unconfirmed reports received by the Free Voice of Iran, Ihsan Tabari, party theoretician and an acknowledged leader of the Tudeh Party, has died in a prison of the Islamic Republic of Iran of unknown causes.

Though the cause of the death of Ehsan Tabari is not yet known, circles in opposition to the Khomeyni regime opine that it is possible his death may be related to the liquidating of resisting political prisoners in the Islamic Republic.

AFGHAN REFUGEES TO RECEIVE IDENTITY CARDS

LD281758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The Interior Ministry political and social under secretary and the director general of aliens' affairs held a press conference this morning, offering explanations regarding Afghan citizens in Iran.

The political and social under secretary said the Interior Ministry will issue identity cards from 11 March as part of its new plan to identify and compile a census on Afghan citizens in Iran. Therefore, all Afghans resident in Iran should apply to centers, which will be announced later, and receive their identity cards. The council for the coordination of Afghan refugees was set up 10 months ago under the auspices of the Interior Ministry for this purpose.

Regarding employment for Afghans resident in Iran, he said after the Afghans in Iran are identified and have received their identity cards, talks have taken place so that, with the assistance of the council for the coordination of Afghan refugees, the Labor Ministry has prepared a project to employ them in places to be determined.

Regarding political activities and forming parties by Afghans in Iran, he said a plan is being implemented in this respect. (?Identified parties) are allowed to operate in Iran provided they conform to the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and are not affiliated to either superpower.

Finally, stressing that we have more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran, he referred to the absence of UN financial assistance to Iran and said that those who run that organization try under various pretexts to prevent such assistance to Islamic Iran and say that the more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran are 20,000 seasonal workers. So far, we have received no financial assistance in this respect.

The director general of aliens' affairs of the Interior Ministry then said that after the census of Afghans resident in Iran is completed, those who want to come to Iran from Afghanistan will be strictly controlled. After their eligibility is determined, identity cards will be issued.

Regarding marriages between Iranians and Afghans and other foreign citizens, he said that since most of the time such marriages take place in remote villages, before the marriage ceremonies take place Interior Ministry officials at governor-generals' offices should be notified.

SEMINAR ON AFGHAN REFUGEE PROBLEMS OPENS

Nateq-Nuri Address

GF011750 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA -- A three-day seminar to study and eliminate problems of Afghan refugees in Iran, was opened here today by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri.

The seminar is attended by officials of the Interior Ministry, representatives from governors general offices and members of the council for coordination of issues related to Afghan refugees.

Addressing the seminar participants, Nateq-Nuri said that through implementation of a plan to identify all Afghan refugees in Iran, to be carried out in the near future and while controlling movement of Afghans, any action which was damaging to the struggle of Muslim people of Afghanistan would be prevented.

Over one and a half million Afghan refugees live in Iran.

Referring to Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and flight of a great number of Afghans, the minister said that due to the Islamic nature of the Iranian Revolution and the Government, Afghan refugees in Iran, naturally have greater expectations.

He added that finally superpowers of East and West would come to a compromise on the Afghan issue, and as a result certain governments would exert more pressure on Afghan refugees. Therefore, he added, responsibility of the Islamic Republic towards Afghan refugees as well as its mission in aiding the Muslim people of Afghanistan would become heavier.

Nateq-Nuri then called on the related authorities to welcome the Afghan refugees and to treat them like Iranians who have been made homeless as a result of the Iraqi imposed war.

He concluded that in taking care of more than one and a half million Afghan refugees, as well as those deported from Iraq and POWs, the Islamic Republic received no aid from international organisations. This was done at a time when Iran was engaged in a war with Iraq and is taking care of those affected by the war, he added.

Ministry Official's Remarks

LD030037 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The political undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, on the 2d day of the nationwide seminar probing the affairs of Afghan refugees in Tehran said: We support the [word indistinct] of nation of Afghanistan which calls for the unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces and determination of the fate of this country by the Afghan Muslim nations and the return of the refugees to their homeland. He then added: We will not confirm discussions without the presence of true representatives of the Afghan Muslim people.

Political undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry further asserted: The Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its independent policy of neither the East nor the West, which stems from an Islamic school of thought, is incapable of accepting some missions which are (?sent) by force.

MONTAZERI RECEIVES AFGHAN ULEMA DELEGATION

LD281023 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Qom, Feb 28 IRNA -- Hojjat ol-Esalm Hajj ual-Mohammad Akbari, one of the leaders of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan, and a number of Afghan ulema met with Ayatollah Hussein 'Ali Montazeri here on Sunday.

The visitors gave a report on internal situation of their country and Islamic movement and combatant ulema association of Afghanistan which has been shaped on the basis of Ayatollah Montazeri's insights.

Ayatollah Montazeri lauded services of Afghanistan combatant ulema and their resistance against the problems they are faced with. He also said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran felt responsibility toward the Islamic movement of Afghanistan and would strengthen it as much as it could.

NVOI CRITICIZES MEDIA COVERAGE OF AFGHANISTAN

TA021912 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian at 1730 GMT on 2 March carries a commentary entitled: "Why Are You Happy at the Atrocities of the So-Called Afghan Moujahdin?" It says: Those who constantly listen to the programs of various radios undoubtedly realize that certain people in the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran are trying to transform it into a division of the imperialist mass media and broadcasting stations. As an example, one can mention the news and reports about Afghanistan. Those who prepare the news in our country's propaganda organization receive these reports from the radios and news agencies of imperialist countries and feed them to Iranian listeners with great fanfare and pleasure.

It is not clear why those who prepare the news in our country's propaganda organization ought to be happy over the murders committed by the professional killers in Afghanistan, under the mask of Islam. The people rightly ask these gentlemen: Why are you happy with the atrocities of these so-called Islamic Afghan mujahidin?

Our homeland's people are well aware that these bandit and murdering bands who want to implement the CIA's plan in Afghanistan under the mask of Islam are similar to the counterrevolutionaries in our own homeland, who are directed by America.

According to figures published in Afghanistan, these so-called Islamic bands so far have destroyed 1,814 schools, 31 hospitals, 111 medical centers, 800 trucks, 906 agricultural cooperatives, and scores of production and cultural institutions. They have killed hundreds of innocent Muslim people. This eternal shame will remain for the Afghan mujahidin of American Islam and their supporters.

In the dictionary of some of the journalistic Keshmiris in our country's mass media, these criminal activities are called revolutionary. Contrary to the provocation and plots of the counterrevolution and its supporters, Democratic Afghanistan is progressing with large strides. Incidentally, this is the very thing that pleases the progressive world, including our homeland's people, and which saddens the foes of the revolution. Our homeland's people are aware of Afghanistan's realities and believe that false propaganda cannot conceal these realities from public opinion.